

FAQs for child sponsorship

Q. What makes our sponsorship programme different?

A. It is truly a one-to-one sponsorship. We hope that you enter this with the idea of renewing your sponsorship each year because otherwise it is very difficult for a child to understand and adjust. If this sort of commitment isn't right for you, there are many other worthwhile ways to invest in our work. DSDO is creating sustainable change for your child and Dekpor. We focus on education, medical care, food-growing assistance, clean water development, public health education, and enriching the lives of the people of Dekpor.

Q. How much does a sponsorship cost?

A. It costs \$300/yr to sponsor an elementary student.

High school students cost \$1300 in their first year, and \$1000 thereafter. Their fees are substantially more due to the fact that they have to live away from home. There is no high school in Dekpor. At this point, it is our focus to ensure that all of our currently-sponsored students will be able to attend high school. Currently (2019) we are setting up our students with co-sponsors to ensure our students are able to get to high school.

Q. When does a sponsorship start?

Immediately upon receipt of funding! It is ideal for a sponsorship to start the same as the school year, but if it's midyear, the first year's amount is prorated.

Q. Can I make several smaller payments throughout the year?

A. Not for elementary students. Although it is much easier for us to receive one payment, if you are sponsoring a high school student by yourself, then we can set up three installments: July, October, and January.

Q. When is it time to renew?

A. A student update letter is sent in July, along with the request for you to renew. Payment is required before the end of August so we can ensure that the necessary funds are available and purchasing can be done before the start of the school year.

Q. Is child sponsorship tax deductible?

A. Yes! You receive a Canadian tax receipt for the full amount.

Q. What does my sponsored child get?

A. A lot! Your child is put on our food programme, which provides a healthy breakfast and lunch, every school day. She has her national health insurance covered, and summer school in August. All school fees are covered, which include: PTA fees, exam fees, a uniform, shoes, backpack, school supplies, and hygiene items are also given. High school students also receive all texts, required materials based on their area of study, a mattress, pillow, chop box, and a variety of other items, as specified by their high school.

Q. What do I do if my contact information changes?

A. Just send an email to carol@dekporschool.org.

Q. Why is all of your correspondence done using email?

A. We're responsible! We want every single penny of donated dollars to be used to its fullest. Cutting out postal fees is a no-brainer! All of our donors would rather provide a few meals for hungry children than have us pay for a stamp!

Q. Can I write to my sponsored child?

A. Yes, the easiest way is to send an email to carol@dekporschool.org and she will forward it to Linda in Dekpor.

Q. Can I send my sponsored child gifts?

A. There is no postal service in Dekpor. The best way to give your child a gift is to make a donation (you'll get a donation receipt if it is \$25+) and Linda and Abraham will take him or her out shopping so they can choose. (Truly an exciting prospect!) Typically students choose socks, underwear, and singlets.

Q. Can I visit my sponsored child?

A. If you would like to visit your child in Dekpor, we will do our best to accommodate! Please refer to the Get Involved, Outreach Volunteer section of our website and travel with Off the Map Adventures.

http://dekporschool.org/Dekpor_School_Development_Organisation/Volunteers.html

Q. Can I post about my sponsored child online?

A. If you are posting about your sponsored child using social media, please use only their first name to respect their privacy.

Q. What communications can I expect as a sponsor?

A. After you've sent your payment, you will receive a photo and a profile of your child. In March/April, we issue individualized letters and photos, updating you on the academic progress of your child. In July, we send our renewal letter, again with photos and an update. We encourage you to 'Like' us on Facebook and to frequently visit our website so that you can follow DSDO's progress between our scheduled communications. At any point in time, you are welcome to contact us with any questions: info@dekporschool.org.

Q. How long do I need to sponsor?

A. What we do is a very real one-to-one sponsorship (unlike some other charities). Your sponsorship funds ensure that your sponsored child goes to school and has the medical attention and nutrition they need. We are very up front about our desire for prospective child sponsors to understand that we are looking for a long term commitment. If this isn't the right match for you, we have many other worthwhile projects. Once your child reaches the end of Dekpor Basic School, we will find a co-sponsor to help cover the increase in fees.

Q. Will I always sponsor the same child?

A. Yes, you will sponsor the same child for the duration of your commitment, except in the following situations: a) their family moves out of the programme area, b) they or their parents opt out of the program (we require that children attend school and are committed to their education), c) they graduate from school. In any of these situations, we'll contact you to explain why your sponsored child is no longer in the programme, and you will be matched with another child.

Q. Do I get to choose my sponsored child?

A. No. You'll notice that we do not have a list or photos of children who are in need of being sponsored. We purposely want to avoid the tendency for people to be swayed by appearance, age, or gender. You get matched with the child at the top of our wait list.

Q. How are students chosen to be on your wait list?

A. DSDO does not choose the students--it is a collaboration of input from the headmasters, teachers and staff, town elders, and sometimes even the chief and queen mother. Academic ability, need, drive, attitude, guardian consent, acceptance of our basic rules regarding behavior and expectations, and a variety of other aspects are taken into account.

Have more questions? Email us at info@dekporschool.org

*Photo policy: Please be sensitive to the child's circumstances and avoid sending photos of material possessions (e.g. your house or car, etc.) and anything that might be considered inappropriate (e.g. revealing summer apparel).